

AUG 02 2005

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**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

**DATE:** August 2, 2005

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<b>RECIPIENT(S):</b>	<b>FAX No.:</b>	<b>PHONE No.:</b>
Examiner Timothy Brown USPTO - Art Unit 1648	1571 273-0773 and 1571 273-8300	1571 272-0773

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U.S. Serial No. 09/896,032

RE: HUBR 1067.3 DIV

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 11

**PAGE:**

**MESSAGE:**

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AUG 02 2005

HUBR 1067.3 DIV (10105485)

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37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being FACSIMILED to Examiner Timothy BROWN at 571 273-0773 and 571 273-8300 at the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

8/2/05

Date

Name: Fani Malkouzakis

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Christoph SEIDEL et al.  
Serial No : 09/896,032  
Filed : June 29, 2001  
For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV  
SEROCONVERSION  
Art Unit : 1648  
Examiner : Timothy M. BROWN

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**LETTER**

SIR:

Transmitted herewith is information which is relevant to the current rejection of the patent application under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In the grandparent of the subject application, co-inventor Ursula-Henrike Wienhues-Thelen submitted a declaration and this is resubmitted here.

In example 1 of the declaration, cysteine residues were modified by iodoacetate, and tested for immunogenicity. Note the modified molecules were more immunogenic.

In example 2, cysteine was replaced by serine. The serine substituted molecules were more active immunologically.

In example 3, it is shown that when the cysteine residues of the antigen are modified, there are fewer releasable sulfhydryl residues.

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Were a prima facie case of lack of enablement established and this is not believed to be the case - these data are believed sufficient to overcome it.

Allowance of the application is believed proper and is urged.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By 

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